

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 243055

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243055

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT
JOSE LOPEZ PORTELLO

1. THE SECRETARY MET WITH PRESIDEN;-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ
PORTILLO AT 9:30 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, AT THE MEXICAN
EMBASSY. FOLLOWING THE CORDIAL DISCUSSION, WHICH COVERED
A RANGE OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TOPICS AND LASTED APPROXI-
MATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF, LOPEZ PORTILLO LEFT FOR THE
AIRPORT TO RETURN TO MEXICO

2. FOREIGN POLICY: LOPEZ PORTILLO PRAISED KISSINGER'S
EFFORTS TO AVERT CATASTROPHE IN AFRICA AND HIS MATURE
UNDERSTANDING OF THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS. HE SAID IT WAS
CRUCIAL THAT THE US UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT POSITION OF
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE FEW
ALTERNATIVES. HE WARNED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED FORUM WAS
MOVING TO THE LEFT. MEXICO WILL BE REALISTIC HE STATED
BUT ALSO NOTED THAT US POWER HAS ITS PRICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 243055

3. MEXICAN ECONOMY: THE PRESIDENT-ELECT STATED THAT THE ECONOMY IS MEXICO'S BIGGEST TROUBLE. HE MENTIONED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (STRAWBERRIES FOR EXAMPLE) AS AN AREA WHERE THE US AND MEXICO COULD WORK TOGETHER AND CALLED

FOR GUARANTEED US MARKETS FOR MEXICAN PRODUCE. MEXICO WOULD GET BETTER TERMS OF TRADE AND MORE JOBS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THE \$100 DUTY FREE EXEMPTION FOR TOURISTS VISITING MEXICO BE RAISED TO \$200. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE TOURIST ALLOWANCE AND THE STRAWBERRY MARKET LOOK LIKE RIDICULOUSLY SMALL ISSUES, THEY ARE PART OF A WHOLE SITUATION WHICH THE US MUST PERCEIVE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT GIVE HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE TERMS OF TRADE TO MEXICO WHEN BY TAKING A LONG TERM VIEW WE CAN AVOID GREATER POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. FUTURE US/MEXICAN RELATIONS: THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED A JOINT STUDY OF SUCH PROBLEMS AS INCREASED ACCESS TO THE US MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. LOPEZ PORTILLO THOUGHT THAT A GOOD IDEA. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT BUREAUCRACY WAS ALSO PART OF THE PROBLEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE TWO PRESIDENTS MET AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND SET A DEADLINE MANY OF THE MINOR THINGS WOULD GET DONE. LOPEZ PORTILLO AGREED HEARTILY.

5. LATIN AMERICA: LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE US DID NOT PAY MORE HEED TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LATIN AMERICA. THE SECRETARY ASKED WHAT THE US SHOULD DO. LOPEZ PORTILLO REPLIED THAT THE US MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TURN INTO POLITICAL PROBLEMS, SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE THIRD WORLD, AND SHOULD NOTE THAT LATIN AMERICA IS MOVING TOWARD FASCISM. HE SUGGESTED THAT BETTER TERMS OF TRADE WITH THE US MIGHT REPRESENT THE BEST TOOL FOR IMPROVING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SO AS ULTIMATELY TO "INTRODUCE ORDER."

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